Installation of Explosive Trace Detectors

718. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION
be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will install 200 Explosive Trace Detectors (ETDs) at 77 airports of the country within the next six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the authority will be installing dual mode ETOs; and

if so, the special features of dual mode ETDs and the estimated cost of their installation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Order has been placed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for installation of 200 Explosive Trace Detectors (ETDs) at all 77 airports of the country. The ETDs will be capable of detecting explosives and narcotics materials by sensing positive and negative ions and hence this is called dual mode. The cost of the 200 ETDs is approximately Rs. 91.00 crores including the Customs Duty.

Open Sky Agreement with ASEAN

719. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons behind Government signing an Open Sky Agreement (OSA) with ASEAN countries;

(b) whether any assessment has been made about the positive and negative aspects of OSA with ASEAN countries; and

(c)if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has not signed an Open Sky Agreement with ASEAN countries. However, Prime Minister had announced during the recently held ASEAN-lndia Summit that we would be willing to engage ASEAN authorities in a discussion on the proposal of 'open sky policy'.